

BACK AND BLOWN AWAY

After a decade gone, a Seattle native comes home to a city that's changed

> PACIFIC NW MAGAZINE



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Promises, plans for schools' racial equity keep falling short

For at least seven decades, Seattle Public Schools has pledged to fix the problems that leave many students of color behind. But as the latest deadline approaches, gaps continue to grow.



Genesee Hill Elementary teacher Emma Klein speaks at Seattle Public Schools' Eliminating Opportunity Gaps (EOG) Institute at Chief Sealth High School last October. The EOG Institute serves as a training, sharing and brainstorming school for creating strategies for racial justice.

By NEAL MORTON
Seattle Times staff reporter

This past spring, the archivist for Seattle Public Schools unearthed a yellowed slip of paper that C.S. Barbo, former principal of Meany Junior High, had tucked into a time capsule in 1963 alongside a plastic toy gun and book of student poems.

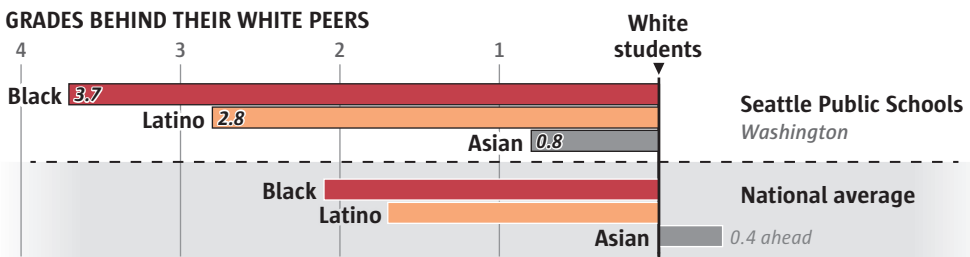


In three brief paragraphs, Barbo lamented what he called the "cultural, racial and economic disadvantages" that he believed slowed the learning of some of his students. "If this box is ever opened," his letter reads, "I would assume the problems we face today in understanding the racial differences will have been resolved. Personally, I trust this will happen."

More than half a century has passed since

Seattle's big gap in test scores by race

In a study by Stanford University researchers, Seattle had bigger racial differences in student test scores than most big school districts in the nation.



Barbo wrote that letter, and since then, the district has repeatedly pledged to raise the performance of students of color. Each time, its efforts have fallen flat or fizzled — often for lack of funding or political will. The latest initiative started five years ago, when the School Board set 2018 as the

deadline for significantly reducing the gaps in achievement among ethnic groups, which a Stanford researcher recently pegged as some of the largest in the nation. The district has since taken steps forward, creating new racial equity teams at 41

See > **GAP, A10**

Mistaken missile warning panics Hawaii

TERROR, HELPLESSNESS GIVE WAY TO OUTRAGE

State worker's goof turns N. Korea fears into frenzy

By ADAM NAGOURNEY, DAVID E. SANGER AND JOHANNA BARR
The New York Times

An emergency alert mistakenly warning of an incoming ballistic-missile attack was dispatched to cellphones across Hawaii on Saturday, setting off widespread panic in a state already on edge because of escalating tensions between the United States and North Korea.

The alert, sent by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, was revoked nearly 40 minutes after it was issued, prompting confusion over why it was released — and why it took so long to rescind. State officials and residents of a normally tranquil part of the Pacific, and tourists swept up in the panic, immediately expressed outrage.

The emergency notice was triggered after an "employee pushed the wrong button" during a shift change at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Gov. David Ige said at an afternoon news conference. He apologized for the "pain and confusion" that resulted.

"The public must have confidence in our emergency-alert system. I am working to get to the bottom of this so we can prevent an error of this type in the future," he said.

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency officials said the alert was the result of human error and not the work of hackers or a foreign government. The mistake occurred during a shift-change drill that takes place three times a day at the emergency center.

See > **ALERT, A15**

TRUMP to seek more nuclear firepower > A15

'Why not me?' More women run for office

POLITICAL CHANGE

As women by the thousands step up, organizations are offering support

By SUSAN KELLEHER
Seattle Times staff reporter

Leah Hadfield's "why not me?" moment arrived last fall, about nine weeks before November's election. The 36-year-old single mom had toyed with the idea of running for City Council in her hometown of Roslyn, a former mining community near Cle Elum that

was governed entirely by men. In September, she launched a write-in campaign against two male candidates, including an incumbent who later withdrew from the race. "It kind of felt enough like the right time," said Hadfield, who works as a barista at a local cafe and general store. She won by 15 points, and last Tuesday took her seat on the council, one of two women elected to the Roslyn council in November. Hadfield was at a loss to explain her victory, but she suspects voters were looking for a woman's perspective and new ideas for protecting the quality of life in Roslyn, population about 900.

"There's a vast amount of divisiveness in politics, and there could be a feeling that maybe women are better at bringing people together," she said. Whatever the reason, Hadfield was among an unprecedented number of women elected to office in 2017, many

See > **POLITICS, A14**



Leah Hadfield was elected to the Roslyn City Council as a write-in candidate in November. She had toyed with the idea of running for public office before, but last fall decided "it kind of felt enough like the right time."

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